

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 16-35 are now in the application. Claims 16-35 are subject to examination. Claims 16, 25, and 30 have been amended. Claims 34 and 35 have been added.

The gas chambers 17a-17d, which are described in the specification, are given as examples of substantially annular gas chambers.

Under the heading "Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102" on page 3 of the above-identified Office Action, claims 25, 27-29, 32-33 have been rejected as being fully anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,004,426 to Laing under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

Claim 25 has been amended to include:

a device for compressing a working medium; and
a turbine configured to expand the working medium to obtain mechanical work, said turbine including a first heat exchanger configured to obtain the working medium from the device and to subsequently bring the working medium into thermal contact with an ambient environment.

Support for the changes can be found by referring to the translated specification at page 6, lines 8-29 and to Fig. 1, for example, which shows one example of a device for compressing a working medium, namely, the turbine

14, a turbine 11 for expanding the working medium, and a first heat exchanger 11c configured in the turbine 11.

Laing does not teach or suggest the features of claim 25 that have been copied above. Laing does not teach anything relating to compressing a working medium while giving off heat. Furthermore, the first heat exchanger 1 taught by Laing obtains heat from the heat source 9 (see column 3, lines 30-37). The first heat exchanger 1 of Laing does not bring the working medium into thermal contact with an ambient environment.

The invention as now defined by claim 25 is not anticipated by Laing.

Under the heading "Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103" on page 3 of the above-identified Office Action, claims 16-24 have been rejected as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 4,004,426 to Laing in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,956,899 to Kronogard under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Applicant respectfully traverses.

Claim 16 defines a method including steps of:

compressing a working medium while giving off heat; and
subsequently bringing the working medium into thermal contact with an ambient environment through a first heat exchanger.

Neither Laing nor Kronogard singly or in combination teach or suggest such steps.

Kronogard teach that a circulating medium is compressed in a compressor 15 and is then fed to a heat exchanger 18 where the circulating medium is heated by the exhaust of the gas turbine. The circulating medium is then fed to a second heat exchanger 19 where the circulating medium is heated further (see column 2, lines 11-15). The second heat exchanger 19 obtains heat from combustion (see column 2, lines 29-35). In contrast to the steps of claim 16 copied above, neither heat exchanger 18 or 19 of Kronogard brings the circulating medium into thermal contact with an ambient environment.

Laing does not teach anything relating to compressing a working medium while giving off heat. Furthermore, the first heat exchanger 1 taught by Laing obtains heat from the heat source 9 (see column 3, lines 30-37). The first heat exchanger 1 of Laing does not bring the working medium into thermal contact with an ambient environment.

The invention as defined by claim 16 could not have been suggested by the teachings in Laing and Kronogard.

Under the heading "Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103" on page 4 of the above-identified Office Action, claim 26 has been rejected as being obvious over U.S.

Patent No. 4,004,426 to Laing in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,781,241 to Misage under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Even if it would have been obvious to combine the cited references, the invention as defined by claim 26 would not have been obtained for the reasons specified above with regard to claim 25.

Under the heading “Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103” on page 4 of the above-identified Office Action, claim 30 has been rejected as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 4,004,426 to Laing in view of German Patent Application No. DE 38 07 783 A1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Even if it would have been obvious to combine the cited references, the invention as defined by claim 30 would not have been obtained for the reasons specified above with regard to claim 25.

Under the heading “Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103” on page 5 of the above-identified Office Action, claim 31 has been rejected as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 4,004,426 to Laing in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,491,14 to Severinsson under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Even if it would have been obvious to combine the cited references, the invention as defined by claim 26 would not have been obtained for the reasons specified above with regard to claim 25.

Claims 34 and 35 have been added to even further distinguish the invention from the prior art. Support for the new claims can be found by referring to the translated specification at page 6, lines 8-22.

Claim 34 specifies that said first heat exchanger is configured to isothermally expand the working medium.

Claim 35 specifies isothermally expanding the working medium while performing the step of subsequently bringing the working medium into thermal contact with the ambient environment.

These features are not taught or suggested by the prior art.

It is accordingly believed to be clear that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest the features of claims 16 or 25. Claims 16 and 25 are, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art. The dependent claims are believed to be patentable as well because they all are ultimately dependent on claim 16 or 25.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 16-35 are solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel would appreciate receiving a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

Petition for extension is herewith made. The extension fee for response within a period of one month pursuant to Section 1.136(a) in the amount of \$65.00 in accordance with Section 1.17 is enclosed herewith.

Please charge any other fees that might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner Greenberg Stermer LLP, No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,

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MPW:cgm

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